

Disordered-quantum-walk-induced localization of a Bose-Einstein condensate

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We present an approach to induce localization of a Bose-Einstein condensate in a one-dimensional lattice under the influence of unitary quantum-walk evolution using disordered quantum coin operation. We introduce a discrete-time quantum-walk model in which the interference effect is modified to diffuse or strongly localize the probability distribution of the particle by assigning a different set of coin parameters picked randomly for each step of the walk, respectively. Spatial localization of the particle or state is explained by comparing the variance of the probability distribution of the quantum walk in position space using disordered coin operation to that of the walk using an identical coin operation for each step. Due to the high degree of control over quantum coin operation and most of the system parameters, ultracold atoms in an optical lattice offer opportunities to implement a disordered quantum walk that is unitary and induces localization. Here we present a scheme to use a Bose-Einstein condensate that can be evolved to the superposition of its internal states in an optical lattice and control the dynamics of atoms to observe localization. This approach can be adopted to any other physical system in which controlled disordered quantum walk can be implemented.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Localization of waves in disordered media originally was predicted in the context of transport of electrons in disordered crystals by Anderson [1]. Anderson localization, resulting in the absence of diffusion, originates from the interference between multiple scattering paths (cf. [2]). This phenomenon is now ubiquitous in physics [3,4]; it has been experimentally observed and theoretically studied in a variety of systems, including light waves [5–10] and matter waves [11–14].

Quantum-walks (QWs) [15–19], which are the quantum analog of classical random walk (CRWs), evolve in position space involving interference of amplitudes of multiple traversing paths. The quantum features of interference and superposition are known to make probability of QW spread quadratically faster with time than its classical counterpart in one dimension. Some studies have shown the localization of the interference of amplitudes between multiple traversing paths of the QW distribution around the origin from various different perspectives [20–26]. In particular, it is shown that the localization of the walk dynamics in one dimension can be controlled by introducing drifts with constant momentum between two consecutive steps of QW [20] or by evolving the walk in a random medium characterized by a static disorder [22].

The key factor for the interference effect to result in localization is the broken periodicity in the dynamics of the system induced by the disordered media. However, broken periodicity need not be mediated by a disordered or a random medium alone; operations defining the dynamics of the system can be made random to break the periodicity such that they mimic the effect of a random medium in the system and manifest localization. Taking this into consideration, we can carefully construct a QW evolution on a physical system such that the dynamics of the walk without any disorder in the lattice is similar to the dynamics of a walk in a disordered medium or in the lattices leading to localization. Owing to

the high degree of control over most of the system parameters and recent experimental implementation of QW [27], ultracold atoms in an optical lattice offer opportunities for the study of disordered QW-induced localization.

Using the flexibility and control that has been achieved over the ultracold atoms, Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) has been used for the study of disorder-induced localization. Using a cigar-shaped noninteracting BEC, exponential localization [12] and a crossover between extended and exponentially localized states [13] have been experimentally demonstrated. Billy *et al.* [12] demonstrated exponential localization of ^{87}Rb atoms when released into a one-dimensional waveguide in the presence of a controlled disorder created by a laser speckle. Roati *et al.* [13], using ^{39}K atoms, demonstrated its localization in a one-dimensional bichromatic optical-lattice potential created by the superposition of two standing-wave polarized laser beams with different wavelengths. In the preceding two experiments, localization was demonstrated through investigations of the transport properties and spatial and momentum distributions. Numerical study of localization of BEC in a bichromatic optical-lattice potential [28] and in a random potential [29] has been reported. Recently, it was shown that the localization by bichromatic potentials is produced by a trapping by the potential and is not due to a quantum suppression, in contrast to the Anderson model [30]. There are also other time-dependent phenomena that can induce population imbalance of two self-interacting BEC and, hence, localization in one of the double-well potentials unlike Anderson localization, which is a stationary phenomenon [31].

Taking the preceding points into consideration, in this paper, we present a new scheme to observe dynamic localization of ultracold atoms in an optical lattice. Periodicity in the dynamics of atoms in an optical lattice is broken using a disordered evolution of the QW and this leads to the interference of amplitude of multiple traversing paths of atoms in an optical lattice to localize. Direct control over the quantum coin operation makes it possible to choose the random set of coin operations and control the dynamics of the QW [18,32], which, in turn, allows us to break the periodicity and localize

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the evolution. In particular, we discuss localization using a BEC with noninteracting and interacting atoms, respectively. This scheme can be expanded to any of the physical systems on which the QW can be implemented.

This article is arranged as follows. In Sec. II, we describe the DTQW model on a line. In Sec. III, we introduce the disordered DTQW model using controllable quantum coin operation randomly picked for each step of walk and present both diffusive and localization effects, respectively. In Sec. IV, we discuss the implementation of QW in ultracold atoms and localization of BEC. Finally, we conclude in Sec. V.

II. QUANTUM WALK

Like their classical counterparts, QWs are also widely studied in two forms, continuous-time QW (CTQW) [19] and discrete-time QW (DTQW) [17,18,33,34], and are found to be very useful from the perspective of quantum algorithms [35–38]. Furthermore, they have been used to demonstrate the coherent quantum control over atoms [39] and to explain phenomena such as the breakdown of an electric-field driven system [21] and wavelike energy transfer within photosynthetic systems [40,41]. Generation of entanglement between two spatially separated systems is another application of QWs [26]. Experimental implementation of QWs has been reported with samples in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) systems [42,43], in the continuous tunneling of light fields through waveguide lattices [44], in the phase space of trapped ions [45,46] based on the scheme proposed by [47], with single optically trapped atoms [27], and with single photons [48,49]. Recently, implementation of a QW-based search algorithm in a NMR system has been reported [50]. Various other schemes have been proposed for their physical realization in different physical systems [51–54].

DTQW, the dynamics of which can be controlled by controlling the quantum coin operation, is used for the study presented in this paper. It is modeled as a particle consisting of a two-level coin (a qubit) in the Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_c , spanned by $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, and a position degree of freedom in the Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_p , spanned by $|\psi_x\rangle$, where $x \in \mathbb{I}$, the set of integers. A t -step DTQW with unit time required for each step of walk is generated by iteratively applying a unitary operation W , which acts on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_c \otimes \mathcal{H}_p$:

$$|\Psi_t\rangle = W^t |\Psi_{\text{in}}\rangle, \quad (1)$$

where

$$|\Psi_{\text{in}}\rangle = [\cos(\delta/2)|0\rangle + \sin(\delta/2)e^{i\phi}|1\rangle] \otimes |\psi_0\rangle \quad (2)$$

is an arbitrary initial state of the particle at the origin and $W \equiv S(B \otimes \mathbb{1})$, where

$$B = B_{\xi,\theta,\zeta} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\xi} \cos(\theta) & e^{i\zeta} \sin(\theta) \\ e^{-i\zeta} \sin(\theta) & -e^{-i\xi} \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \in U(2) \quad (3)$$

is the quantum coin operation. S is the controlled-shift operation

$$S \equiv \sum_x [|0\rangle\langle 0| \otimes |\psi_x - 1\rangle\langle \psi_x| + |1\rangle\langle 1| \otimes |\psi_x + 1\rangle\langle \psi_x|]. \quad (4)$$

The probability to find the particle at site x after t steps is given by $p(x,t) = \langle \psi_x | \text{tr}_c(|\Psi_t\rangle\langle \Psi_t|) | \psi_x \rangle$.

III. DISORDERED DISCRETE-TIME QUANTUM WALK

Direct control over the quantum coin operation B makes it possible to control the dynamics of the DTQW [18,32]. For a walk evolution on a particle in one dimension with initial state

$$|\Psi_{\text{ins}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle) \otimes |\psi_0\rangle \quad (5)$$

at the origin using an unbiased coin operation, that is, $B_{\xi,\theta,\zeta}$ with $\xi = \zeta = 0$, the variance after t steps of walk is $[1 - \sin(\theta)]t^2$ [32] and a symmetric probability distribution in position space is obtained [34,55]. Nonzero values for parameter ξ and ζ (when $\xi \neq \zeta$) introduce asymmetry to the probability distribution [32]. It is also shown that DTQW with $\delta \neq \pi/2$ in Eq. (2) returns asymmetric probability distribution, and parameters ξ and ζ can be adjusted to make the distribution symmetric.

In a standard DTQW evolution, identical coin operation is used during each step of the walk making it a periodic evolution. This order can be broken by choosing a different coin operation for each step of the walk or by choosing a different coin operation at each position space. For simplicity, we will consider a different coin operation during each step. Evolution of DTQW using disordered coin operation can be constructed by randomly choosing a quantum coin operator for each step from a set of operators in the $U(2)$ group.

That is,

$$S(B_{\xi_t,\theta_t,\zeta_t} \otimes \mathbb{1}) \dots S(B_{\xi_x,\theta_x,\zeta_x} \otimes \mathbb{1}) \dots S(B_{\xi_0,\theta_0,\zeta_0} \otimes \mathbb{1}) |\Psi_{\text{in}}\rangle \quad (6)$$

with randomly chosen parameters $\xi, \theta, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$ for each step. Although the coin parameters are randomly chosen for each step, the evolution is unitary and involves interference of amplitudes, and the effect is seen in the probability distribution (see Fig. 1).

From the numerical evolution of the 100-step QW shown in Fig. 1, although the interference effect is seen, we note that the variance of the distribution is much closer to the variance of

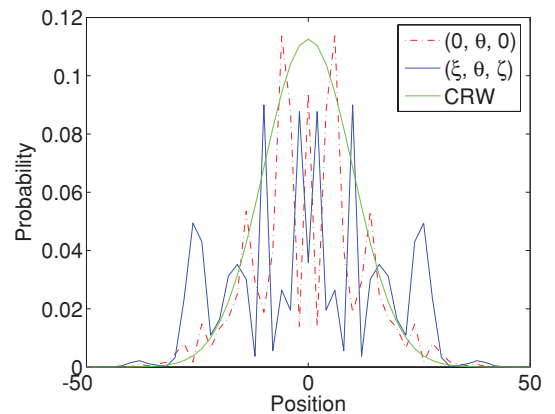


FIG. 1. (Color online) Probability distribution of the QW evolved by assigning quantum coin operation in a $U(2)$ group with random parameters to each step of the walk. Parameters are assigned from $\xi, \theta, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$ for $B_{\xi,\theta,\zeta}$ and $B_{0,\theta,0}$, respectively. The distribution is after 100 steps of the walk on a particle with initial state at the origin $|\Psi_{\text{ins}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle) \otimes |\psi_0\rangle$. We see that the variance of the distribution is very close to the variance of the classical random walk (CRW) distribution.

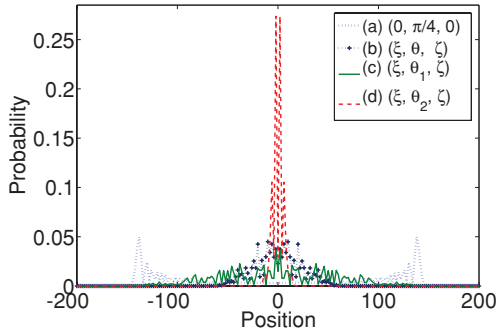


FIG. 2. (Color online) Comparison of the probability distribution of the QW evolved by assigning quantum coin operation in a $U(2)$ group with random parameters in a different range to each step of the walk to that of the Hadamard walk, which is the standard form of the DTQW with identical coin ($\theta = \pi/4$), (b) the walk using parameters assigned from $\xi, \theta, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$ for $B_{\xi, \theta, \zeta}$, (c) the walk using parameters assigned from $\xi, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$ and $\theta_1 \in \{0, \pi/4\}$, and (d) the walk using parameters assigned from $\xi, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$ and $\theta_2 \in \{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$. Localization is seen in the case of (d). The distribution is after 200 steps of the walk on a particle with initial state at the origin $|\Psi_{\text{ins}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle) \otimes |\psi_0\rangle$.

the CRW distribution. However, by restricting the range of the coin parameters that can be used for the walk, the probability distribution can be localized or made to diffuse in position space. One simple example we can consider is to randomly pick different θ for each step from a subset of a complete range of θ , with subsets $\theta_1 \in \{0, \pi/4\}$ and $\theta_2 \in \{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$, for $B_{\xi, \theta_1, \zeta}$ and $B_{\xi, \theta_2, \zeta}$ respectively, while other parameters are still picked from the complete range $\xi, \zeta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$. The probability distribution obtained is shown in Fig. 2. The QW using $\theta_1 \in \{0, \pi/4\}$ diffuses in position space without any sharp peaks when compared to the standard QW evolution using identical coin operation with two sharp peaks. The walk using $\theta_2 \in \{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$, however, localizes the distribution around the origin [24]. For the numerical evolution, the parameter θ for each random coin operation in the evolution was generated from a random number generator program with an equal probable appearance of any number in the specific range.

IV. LOCALIZATION OF BOSE-EINSTEIN CONDENSATES

Degenerate atomic gases have been used as a system to experimentally implement a number of basic models in condensed-matter theory. The possibility to create both ordered and disordered lattice potentials in higher physical dimensions, the control of interatomic interactions, and the possibility to measure atomic density profile via direct imaging are the key advantages of atomic quantum gases (cf. [56,57]).

Recently, atomic gases were used to test and implement various quantum information protocols; particularly, by using a single atom in an optical lattice, experimental implementation of DTQW has been reported [27]. Single laser cooled caesium (Cs) neutral atoms were deterministically delocalized over the sites of a one-dimensional spin-dependent optical lattice. Initially, the atoms distributed among the axial vibrational state

were prepared in the $|0\rangle \equiv |F = 4, m_F = 4\rangle$ hyperfine state by optical pumping, where F is the total angular momentum and m_F is its projection onto the quantization axis along the dipole trap axis. The resonant microwave radiation, a $\pi/2$ pulse, was used to coherently couple this state to the $|1\rangle \equiv |F = 3, m_F = 3\rangle$ state and initialize the system in the superposition $(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle)/\sqrt{2} \otimes |\psi_0\rangle$. The state-dependent shift operation is performed by continuous control of the trap polarization, moving the spin state $|0\rangle$ to the right and state $|1\rangle$ to the left adiabatically along the lattice axis. After t steps of coin operation and state-dependent shift, the final atom distribution is probed by fluorescence imaging. From these images, the exact lattice site of the atom after the walk is extracted and compared to the initial position of the atom. The final probability distribution to find an atom at position x after t steps is obtained from the distance each atom has walked by taking the ensemble average over several hundreds of identical realizations of the sequence.

Experimental complexity aside, the preceding protocol can be adopted to other species of ultracold atoms and the noninteracting BEC as an initial state. For example, rubidium (^{87}Rb) atoms in an optical trap with state $|F = 1, m_F = 1\rangle \equiv |0\rangle$ and $|F = 2, m_F = 2\rangle \equiv |1\rangle$ can be coherently coupled and moved in position space to implement DTQW. Implementing DTQW on the BEC involves evolving BEC into macroscopic superposition (Schrödinger cat) state [58–61] after each shift operation, which delocalizes the state in position space [53]. Evolving the BEC into a macroscopic superposition state to implement DTQW involves applying a rf pulse to the system to transfer the atoms part of the way between states $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. The duration of the pulse is kept much shorter than the self-dynamics of the condensate. This will only evolve each atom into the superposition of states $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, and the corresponding N atom quantum state is a product of single-particle superposition, that is, it is still a microscopic superposition. However, as this initial state evolves under the nonlinear Hamiltonian that governs the BEC with attractive interparticle interactions, it reaches a macroscopic superposition in which all atoms in a given lattice are simultaneously in levels $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, $|\Psi_{\text{BEC}}\rangle = (1/\sqrt{2})[|N_{|0\rangle}, 0_{|1\rangle}\rangle + |0_{|0\rangle}, N_{|1\rangle}\rangle]$ [53,61]. Therefore, interatomic interactions are important to evolve the BEC into a macroscopic superposition state as discussed above. A DTQW on a noninteracting BEC as an initial state will implement the walk at an individual atom level and lose the coherence. We should note that the two experimental demonstrations of localization [12,13] were done on a noninteracting BEC.

In a scheme proposed to implement a DTQW on ultracold atoms in a BEC state [53], it is first evolved to a macroscopic superposition state and a *stimulated Raman kick*, i.e., two selected levels of the atoms are coupled to the two modes of counterpropagating laser beams to coherently impart a translation of atoms in the position space. After each translation, the wave packet is again evolved into the macroscopic superposition state at each lattice x , where the number of atoms $n_x < N$ and the process is iterated to implement a large number of steps of QW. When n_x is very small, the atoms will evolve to the superposition only at an individual atom level, i.e., microscopic superposition. With a certain modification to

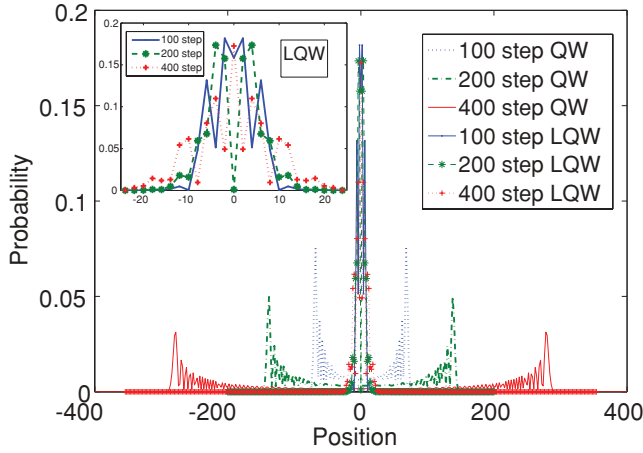


FIG. 3. (Color online) Comparison of a standard QW evolution (Hadamard walk) and a localized QW (LQW) after 100, 200, and 400 steps, respectively. For a walk using randomly picked parameters $\theta_2 \in \{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$ for each step of the walk, distribution remains localized near the origin irrespective of the number of steps (time). The distribution is after the walk on a particle with initial state at the origin $|\Psi_{\text{ins}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle) \otimes |\psi_0\rangle$. The inset is a closer view of a localized QW distribution between position -30 and $+30$ for 100, 200, and 400 steps, respectively.

this scheme, that is, by evolving atoms to the superposition of the states at an individual atom level and implementing the shift operation before the interatomic interaction takes over to form a macroscopic superposition, the QW at an individual atom level can be realized [24].

To observe localization, the periodic evolution using a $\pi/2$ pulse as quantum coin operation during each step of the walk in the preceding protocols is broken by randomly picking the pulse from the range $\{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$. Therefore, during each step, the coin operation evolves the state to an unequal superposition state such that the constructive interference effect and amplitude are directed toward the origin. In Fig. 3, we compare the QW evolution using an identical coin operation for each step (Hadamard walk) and localized QW (LQW) after 100, 200, and 400 steps, respectively. For a walk using randomly picked parameters $\theta_2 \in \{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$ for each step of the walk, distribution remains localized near the origin irrespective of the number of steps (time). In Fig. 4, the localization length L_{loc} is numerically obtained by taking the ratio of the variance of the probability distribution LQW to that of the QW using an identical coin operation for each step,

$$L_{\text{loc}} = \frac{\sigma(\theta_2)}{\sigma(\theta)} \quad (7)$$

where θ_2 is the randomly picked quantum coin parameter from range $\{\pi/4, \pi/2\}$ for each step and θ is the identical quantum coin parameter throughout the walk evolution.

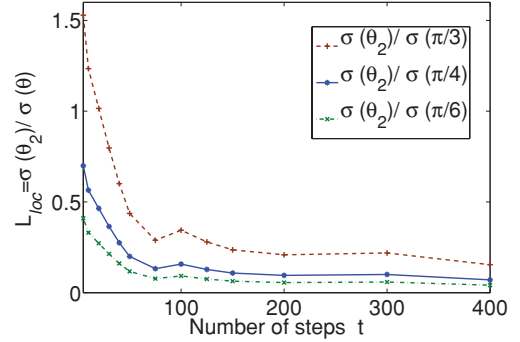


FIG. 4. (Color online) Localization length obtained by calculating the ratio of the variance of the probability distribution LQW to that of the QW using an identical coin operation for each step. For each plot, different θ in the coin operation are picked for an identical coin operation.

V. CONCLUSION

We have discussed an approach to dynamic localization of ultracold atoms in a one-dimensional lattice under the influence of DTQW using disordered quantum coin operations. We introduced a DTQW model in which a random coin parameter is assigned to each step of the walk to break the periodicity during the walk evolution. By picking the coin operation from a different range of parameters, we have shown that the DTQW on a two-state particle in a one-dimensional lattice can be diffused or strongly localized in position space, respectively. We have shown that these behaviors of the DTQW can be efficiently induced without introducing decoherence into the system. Using ultracold atoms in an optical lattice as a physical system, we have discussed implementation of a DTQW flexibility in control over the experimental parameters to configure walk to diffuse or localize in position space. We have discussed implementation of DTQW on atoms at an individual level in a BEC and on a BEC retaining the macroscopic coherence (BEC) state throughout the evolution. From this, we can conclude that the localization can be observed in a BEC with noninteracting atoms and interacting atoms, respectively. In general, the disordered coin operations (microwave pulses) in DTQW on atoms can be made to mimic the random media localizing the BEC. This approach can be adopted to any other physical system in which a controlled disordered DTQW can be implemented, broadening the spectrum of possible application of DTQW to study dynamics and phases in physical systems.

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